

# Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council

## 2021-2022 Policy Priorities



### CHOICE

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**H.272/S.124 – An Act relative to supported decision-making agreements for certain adults with disabilities.** (*EXTENSION – Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities*) Representative Tucker, Senator Lovely.

Supported Decision-Making is an alternative to guardianship. With supported decision-making adults who want assistance with decisions can choose a group of trusted supporters to assist them with making and communicating decisions. This bill would establish the legal framework for Supported Decision-Making in Massachusetts.

[Read more.](#)

### CONSUMER PROTECTION

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**H.446/S.184 – An Act expanding wheelchair warranty protections for consumers with disabilities.** Representative O'Day, Senator Cronin.

This bill would improve warranty protections for wheelchair users. Right now, people with broken wheelchairs struggle to get repairs in a timely way. They are often left stranded and isolated for days or weeks awaiting repairs. The bill would make it easier and faster to get wheelchairs fixed when there are problems.

### HEALTH & SERVICES

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**H.1256/S.745 – An Act relative to preventing discrimination against persons with disabilities in the provision of health care.** Representative Cutler, Senator Chang-Diaz.

This bill would stop health care providers from discriminating against someone because of a disability when they are getting medical care. It would not allow using tools that measure and devalue the lives of people with disabilities.

**H.1266/S.768 – An Act to protect medically fragile children.** Representative Garlick, Senator Friedman.

This bill would increase the budget for continuous skilled nursing services in home care. It requires the state to review the wage payment rates established by home health agencies.

**H.265/S.140 – “Tommy’s Law,” An act to increase the safety of individuals with disabilities relying on life-support equipment.** Representative Rogers, Senator O'Connor.

This bill requires appropriate discharge plan review with residential facility nursing staff and more accountability for medical equipment monitoring.

**H.261/S.122 – An Act relative to persons with developmental disabilities.** Representative O'Day, Senator Lovely.

This bill would expand access to services for adults with developmental disabilities by adopting a broader definition of developmental disabilities.

### EDUCATION

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**H.1331/S.846 – An Act creating higher education opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities, autism, and other developmental disabilities.** (*EXTENSION - Joint Committee on Higher Education*) Representative Garballey & Representative Haddad; Senator Lovely.

This bill would create more opportunities for people with disabilities to access state colleges and universities and take part in campus life.

## WORKPLACE & EMPLOYMENT

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**H.2419 – An Act removing barriers to work that discriminate against persons with disabilities, mobility impairments, and seniors.** (*EXTENSION - Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security*) Representative Barber.

The bill requires the employee areas meet the requirements and standards in the Americans with Disabilities Act.

**H.2863 – An Act relative to the WorkAbility Tax Credit.** Representative Cutler.

The bill creates a tax credit for eligible small businesses to encourage hiring people with disabilities.

## HOUSING

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**H.1370/S.908 – An Act relative to accessory dwelling units.** Representative Barber, Senator Tarr.

This bill encourages creating accessory dwelling units for people with disabilities and seniors.



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